Setting up of independent agency to determine quality of coal

2322. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to decontrol both coking and non-coking Coal;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that quality of coal is being determined by the producers i.e. Coal Companies themselves;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to set up an independent agency to determine and fix the quality of coal to safeguard various small consumers all over the country;

(e) whether it is also a fact that accumulated losses to Coal India Limited is more than Rs. 2500 crores; and

(f) if so, what action Government propose to take to make the industry more efficient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices in their interim recommendations had inter alia recommended decontrolling the prices of coking coal to steel sector and some grades of non-coking coal only. The recommendation is based on the premise that market prices of these grades are much higher than their controlled prices. The proposal if approved would mean that prices of specified grades would largely be in line with their open market prices.

(c) and (d) Although the initial grading is done by the cola company itself, Coal Controller, which is an independent agency has the authority to look into any complaint and revise the grading wherever necessary.

(e) The accumulated losses of Coal India Limited as at the end of 1991-92 are Rs. 2353.99 crores.

(f) The following actions are being taken for improving the efficiency of Coal India Limited:

(1) Rationalisation of manpower.

(2) Redeployment of manpower.

(3) Promotion of Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(4) Improving productivity.

(5) Increase in production of superior grades of coal wherever available.

(6) Ensuring uninterrupted power supply.

(7) In sale programme, enforcement of 'Cash and Carry' Scheme and realisation of arrears of payment.

Coal deposits found in Maharastra

2323. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR:

The Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Coalfields in Maharashtra State where Coal deposits have been found but mining has not yet begun;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the mining is likely to begin in these coalfields;

(d) what is the estimate of such deposits and for how many years they will the last after mining begins; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons for not starting mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (e) According to the assessment of Geological Survey of India, the coal reserves in Maharashtra upto a depth of 6000 metres are 6276.53 million tonnes as on 1-1-1993. These reserves are located in Chanda, Wardha, Kamptee, Umrer, Bander, Nand, Makardhokra and Bokhara coalefields. The Government have taken steps to exploit the coal reserves in the State matching with the projected demand by operating existing mines, implementing sanctioned projects and taking up new schemes. Coal production in the State is expected to be about 30 million tonnes by 1996-97 as against a production of 24.73 million tonnes in 1991-92.

Stagnation in production

2324. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production from underground mines has been stagnating at around 80 million tonnes for the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to raise the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) (a) to (c): Figures of coal production from underground mines in Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) are given below:—

(million tonnes)

Year	Coal production from underground mines		
	CIL	SCCL	TOTAL
1989-90	58.70	12.03	70.73
1990-91	55.84	11.12	66.96
1991-92	56.63	12.30	68.93

Most of the underground mines are old and the coal production from these mines has been stagnating due to geo-mining problems like steep and multiple seams, occurance of fires, water logged old workings in adjoining areas, built-up surface structures which need protection by sand stowing etc.

Steps taken to augment coal production, inter-alia, include opening of new mines, modernisation of existing mines, application of new technologies to achieve maximum results and ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities.

Price rise due to new wholesale distribution system

2325. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently launched a new wholesale coal distribution system in the country;